



U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
District of Kansas

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TOPEKA MAN SENTENCED ON FIREARMS CHARGES UNDER PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS

TOPEKA, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **Michael Eric Moten**, 35, Topeka, Kansas, was sentenced on December 8, 2003, by U.S. District Judge Julie A. Robinson to **fifty-one months in federal prison, without parole, to be followed by two years of supervised release.**

Melgren said that Moten was found guilty on August 27, 2003, following a two day jury trial to being a felon and an unlawful user of marijuana and cocaine in possession of a handgun.

Melgren said that according to trial testimony, the Topeka Police Narcotics Squad executed a search warrant on February 7, 2002, at Moten's residence and found a Glock semi-automatic pistol in his bedroom under the bed. Although the pistol was originally purchased by Moten's wife, the jury determined that Moten had access that rose to the level of possession of the firearm. Moten had previous felony convictions and admitted that he was an unlawful user and addicted to marijuana and cocaine.

Melgren commended the excellent work of the Topeka Police Department in this investigation.

““Felons in Kansas who are found with firearms do hard time,” Melgren said. “Under Project Safe Neighborhoods, we will aggressively prosecute those who are prohibited from possessing firearms, such as felons or drug users. We will also aggressively prosecute those who attempt to circumvent the law by having a family member purchase the gun for them.”

This news release is now available at www.usdoj.gov/usao/ks/.